

## Message - Banned Plastic Bags

### **1. Commercialisation of fake biodegradable and compostable plastic bags on local market**

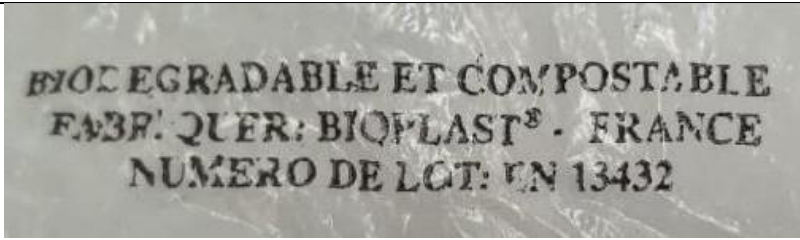
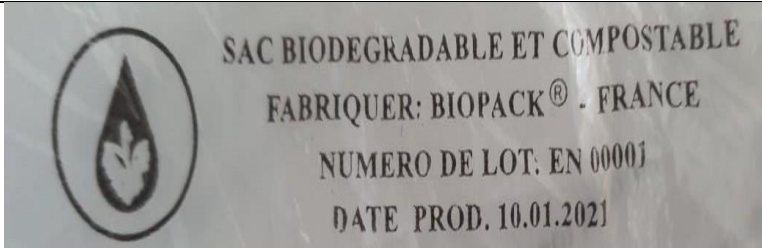
During several crackdown operations carried out jointly by the Environment and Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and the *Police de l'Environnement*, the commercialisation of fake biodegradable and compostable plastic bags has been observed. These fake bags bear fictitious name of manufacturers as well as fictitious contact details.

### **2. How to identify a fake biodegradable and compostable plastic bag?**

As per the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020, the following labellings are required on biodegradable or compostable plastic bags:

- a) name and contact address of the importer or manufacturer;
- b) country of origin;
- c) batch number and production date;
- d) standards complied with and the materials used; and
- e) expiry date of the bag.

Fake bags will bear fictitious labellings, which are not in accordance with the above and may appear as follows:

	<b>Missing information:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contact address of local importer;</li><li>• batch number and production date; and</li><li>• expiry date.</li></ul>
	<b>Missing information:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contact address of local importer;</li><li>• biodegradability standards being complied with; and</li><li>• expiry date.</li></ul>

	<p><b>Missing information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contact address of local importer;</li> <li>• batch number and production date; and</li> <li>• expiry date.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Missing/fake information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contact address of local importer;</li> <li>• phone number;</li> <li>• country of origin; and</li> <li>• biodegradability standards being complied with.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Missing/fake information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phone number;</li> <li>• country of origin;</li> <li>• biodegradability standards being complied with; and</li> <li>• same production and expiry dates.</li> </ul>

### 3. What can be done to help authorities?

Retailers and the public in general, are advised to: -

- i. verify **particulars of the labellings** when purchasing biodegradable and/or compostable plastic bags;
- ii. report **any suspected case of illegal activity** to this Ministry on telephone number (230) 203-6200 or via WhatsApp number (230) 5250-5151. *Anonymous complaints are acceptable*; and
- iii. in case of doubt, **consult this Ministry** for any assistance, prior to purchasing and/or using biodegradable/ compostable bags.

### 4. Fines for offences

The public is reminded that any person who contravenes the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 shall commit an offence and shall be liable to the payment of fines as follows: -

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Fine</b>
<b>Possession or use of banned plastic bags (including fake biodegradable or compostable plastic bags)</b>	Not exceeding Rs2,000
<b>Sale or distribution of banned plastic bags (including fake biodegradable or compostable plastic bags)</b>	Not exceeding Rs20,000
<b>Manufacture, import or export of banned plastic bags (including fake biodegradable or compostable plastic bags)</b>	Not exceeding Rs100,000
<b>Import or manufacture of biodegradable or compostable plastic bags without a clearance</b>	Not exceeding Rs100,000

## **5. Other legal provisions**

Pursuant to the coming into force of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2020 since 01 March 2021, the Ministry of the Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change (Environment and Climate Change Division) wishes to remind the public of the following: -

### **Banned bags:**

1. Non-biodegradable and non-compostable plastic bags designed for carrying goods.
2. Non-woven polypropylene bag.
3. Oxidatively degradable plastic bag.
4. Photodegradable plastic bag.

### **Exempt bags (bags allowed for specific purposes):**

1. For the disposal of waste, including quarantine and clinical waste.
2. For the purpose of agriculture.
3. For medical purposes.
4. For the purpose of sampling or analysis.
5. Bags that constitutes, or forms an integral part of, the packaging in which goods, materials or products are sealed prior to sale on the local market or for export.
6. Transparent re-sealable bag with security tamper used by a passenger to contain liquids, aerosols or gels at an airport or on board of an aircraft or carried by a transfer passenger.

*Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management Division and Climate Change  
(Environment and Climate Change Division)  
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